

AVON TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, April 14, 2015

1. Meeting Called to order by Town Clerk, Jeanne Kearby at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Elect Moderator
Lisa Rusch nominated Ann Bidwell as the Moderator and it was seconded by Chris Larson.
All in favor? Opposed? Ann Bidwell is appointed by acclamation.
4. Moderator was sworn in by Town Clerk – Jeanne Kearby
5. Approval of Minutes for Town Hall Meeting April 9, 2014
It was moved by Joyce Rossdeutcher and seconded by Barb Hogman to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2014.
All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.
6. Clerk Shall read Supervisor's Annual Financial Statement
Upon advice of Attorney Dietz, we no longer need to read the Financial Statement as long as a written report is provided to the public. Copies were provided.
7. Moderator To Introduce Speakers:
Moderator Ann Bidwell introduced members of the Avon Township Board.

Lisa Rusch – Supervisor provided a PowerPoint presentation for the public, which was available upon request as a hard copy in Spanish. She reviewed the structure of Township government and the areas included in the Township. She explained the functions of the Supervisors office including functions of general and emergency assistance. She went over the programs we offer such as diaper service for children and adults, budgeting classes and grant opportunities. She also noted senior services, Touch-a-Truck and transportation.

In addition noted were building improvement, updated technology and landscaping. Improvements included new bathrooms, paint, carpeting, tile and new windows.

She also discussed long term planning. Goals included being more visible in the community by visiting municipal and other meetings. We are also developing a flier to advertise the functions of the Township.

Jeanne Kearby noted the functions of the Clerk's office. She highlighted community service support and summer employment for youth. An explanation was given of FOIA

requests and all have been answered within the designated time frame. Also reviewed were posting requirements and progress on the storage and maintenance of records.

Bob Kula – Highway Commissioner also presented a written report for the public. He reviewed the projects covered throughout the year. Pictures were provided that showed the curb and storm water system improvements. They also perform erosion control inspections in house causing a substantial savings to the Township. He noted the Highway Departments work to monitor and reduce pollutants in our storm water. The Highway Department had a spring clean-up for residents and collected electronics for recycling. In addition to our mosquito control, we also assisted with the removal of invasive trees and brush as part of the Mill Creek Watershed. There was also information on salt purchase, storage and reserve. He also noted measures to use alternatives to salt. Bob Kula answered questions from the citizens present regarding the use of alternative salt.

Chris Ditton – Assessor gave the citizens present contact information if there were any questions. He explained the assessment process and the function of a quadrennial year. He explained the deadline of this every four year reassessments. He noted his efforts to assist seniors in applying for the Senior Freeze. He explained the guidelines and where he would be for assistance and what seniors needed to bring to start the process. The county commissioned a study to assess what the cost to assess a parcel of property. The result was that the average cost to assess a parcel of property in Lake County to be \$32.00 per parcel. In Avon Township the cost of assessment per parcel is \$14.00. There were questions asked of the Assessor. There were several questions asked regarding the closing of the office. Also how short sales are figured in the process. It is part of the qualified sales that get averaged. There were questions about a typical day for his staff. He spoke of assisting walk ins, assessing changes in property, permits, computer analysis of changes and field work going out for 3-4 hours per day to measure and view property to substantiate permit information. He noted busier during the time when tax bills come out, senior freezes, during the appeal process and very busy during the Quadrennial. Asked to keep track of visits to the office to present next year. Also asked if they needed to physically go out and observe property during the quadrennial. Assessor Ditton said the law says you have to check the assessment but you can look at property record cards or aerial photos.

Trustee Chris Larson – Financial Update was included in the PowerPoint presentation. Trustee Larson highlighted the presentation presented at the budget hearing. We do a zero budget process. Our revenues are significantly lower than other Townships. We had some additional costs due to the Quadrennial year. Discussed the litigation and noted that there has been some resolution. There has been a discussion on a referendum to increase our levy. There is not adequate revenues to cover the costs of the responsibilities of the offices. Questions were asked regarding how legal fees can undo the work the Township is trying to accomplish. It was noted by Lisa DeLaMar noted we negotiated keeping in mind the cost of litigation. Asked was what we expected

for revenues in the future. It was noted that we can only address what we have and that the speculation is that we will receive less than currently allotted. There was a discussion of sustaining the budget. There is no way to address without making major cuts to services. Reserves have been used to sustain current programs that will not be available in the future.

8. Motion to set next year's Annual Town Meeting for 7:00 pm on April 12, 2016
Motion was made by Patrick Duby to hold the Annual Town Meeting on April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and was seconded by Joyce Rossdeutcher.
All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.

9. Other Business as necessary
There was no additional business.

10. Public participation

Patrick Duby stated that it should be noted that there has been many complaints of funding shortages and struggles to maintain a working government with those constraints. However, these struggles should not lead to internal lawsuits to the detriment of the people of this area and those constituents they are serving. The current elected Township Assessor has failed to keep that office open over an extended period of time, failed to address the concerns of those constituents and caused undue stress and problems for the people he is supposed to represent. He has failed to uphold that office to the highest standards that the citizens of Avon Township demand. Therefore based on these complaints along with countless other problems and complaints from multiple citizens, I, Patrick Duby, a citizen of Avon Township, hereby call upon the Board to bring forward a motion to discuss and approve an official censure precedence upon Avon Township Assessor. Let this public record show the discontent of the citizens of this region that he was elected to represent. Please notate the official record with the censure against the Avon Township Assessor for not upholding his duties.

It was asked if he wanted that at a future meeting. Attorney Dietz noted that it was not within the powers of town electives to do that but it could be among the powers of the trustees.

Supervisor Rusch noted the trustee and elected official's email addresses.

Kathy Oetker, on the board for Avon Community Food Pantry and a Trustee for the Round Lake Library, wanted to thank the Board providing the space for the food pantry. We service over 3000 people monthly. We are excited that the community garden and production garden will be open with the help of Growing Healthy People, we are looking to providing three times the amount of food. Also thank Bob for all the extra picking and hauling for the Pantry.

Supervisor Rusch also thanked Suzanne and Bob for the Township bus. We will not be getting another bus. For the past several weeks Suzanne has been booked solid. So I do want to thank them for their service.

11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Lisa Rusch and seconded by Lisa DeLaMar to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm.

All in favor say aye. Opposed? Motion carries by acclamation.